(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to make checking of food items more stringent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A study on food contaminants in various food items was conducted by ICMR in 1993. The report was not found to be accurate in analysis interpretation, method of reporting and conclusions drawn. In view of this, the report was withdrawn in 1994.

In order to ensure that the contaminants in food products do not exceed safe limits the Ministry of Health presents maximum residue levels for pesticides and heavy metals in food products under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

The Food Authorities of States & Union Territories are responsible for monitoring and implementation of the PFA Act, 1954 and the PFA Rules, 1955.

Supply of Anti-retroviral drug

1881. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the WHO has stopped two Energic Anti-retroviral drugs supplied by a drug company in India, to poor countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons behind stopping the supply of ARVs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information received, WHO has removed three manufacturers from the pre-qualification list. These are —(i) Cipla Ltd. (ii) Strides Arcolab, Bangalore, (both removed from pre-qualification list on 27th May 2004) and (iii) Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. (removed from pre-qualification list on 4th August 2004). These manufacturers were compliance with Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) and Good Clinical Practices (GCP) were assessed as well as the data of the bio-equivalence study used by the manufacturers were verified and found unsatisfactory.

Out of these, Cipla and Strides Arcolab, Bangalore are re-listed on 13th July 2004 after re-assessment of new bio-equivalence study data presented to WHO.